

The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for  
**Cultural Preservation**

ANNUAL **08-09** REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE









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**Cultural Preservation**

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A report of grants made in fiscal year 2008 and implemented in 2009



# Introduction

Since its creation by the U.S. Congress in the fall of 2000, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation has provided grants in support of more than 500 cultural preservation projects in more than 100 developing countries. This accomplishment, now eight years in the making, represents a contribution of more than \$16 million towards the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide. More importantly, it shows the depth of our nation's respect for the cultural heritage of other countries.

In 2008, U.S. ambassadors in more than 90 countries around the globe applied to the fund on behalf of their host countries for support in meeting pressing cultural preservation needs. Among those receiving grants in 2008 were the Hubei Provincial Museum in China for the preservation of ancient silk embroideries; the Botshabelo Development Community Trust in South Africa for the restoration of a former church in an ethnically diverse mission settlement; and the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the preservation of the main gate and selected tombstones in the Jewish Cemetery of Sarajevo.

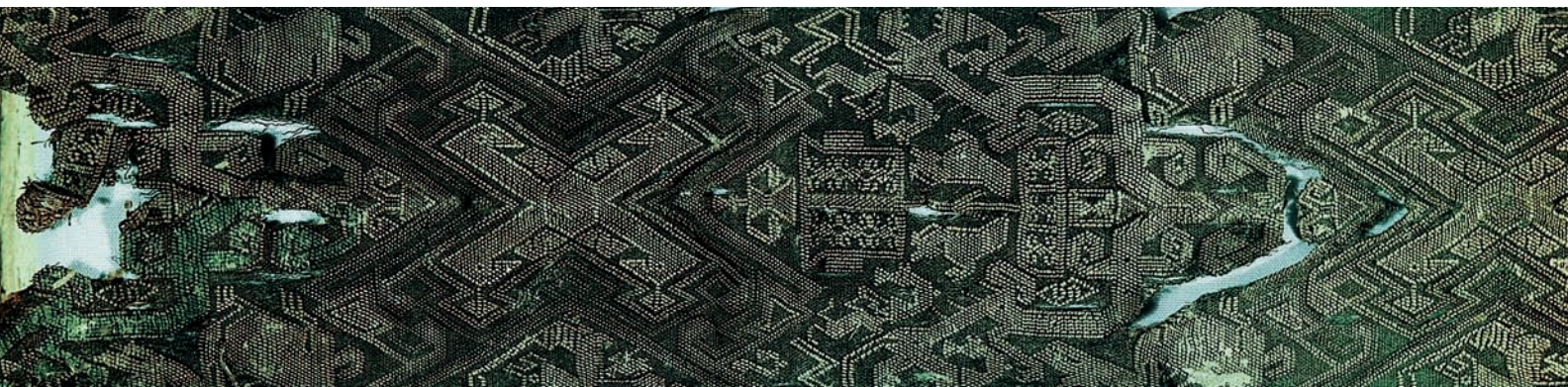
The Ambassadors Fund entered a new phase in 2008, when, at the direction of the U.S. Congress, it awarded three grants of more than \$500,000 in support of large-scale partnership-based projects to preserve ancient sites in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Guatemala. Through support of these projects, the U.S. joins the ranks of other countries which have committed to making significant investments in preserving cultural sites of global significance in developing countries around the world.

Speaking at a July 2008 grant-signing ceremony at the Museum of Art of El Salvador, U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, Charles L. Glazer noted that *"preserving, respecting, and protecting the cultural legacy of our societies and of the world at large is a mission our governments and our fellow citizens share."* By supporting the preservation of cultural heritage, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation helps extend its value as a vital and defining element of communities and nations and helps ensure its continued use, enjoyment, and relevance both today and beyond.





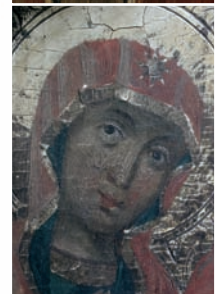
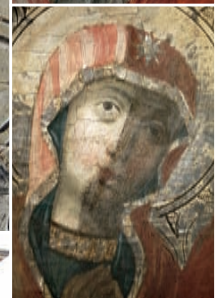
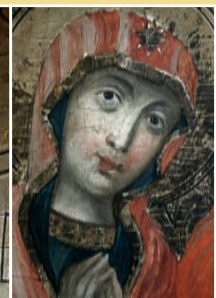
Conservation and Display of Silk Objects from the Warring States Period in the Hubei Provincial Museum. U.S. Embassy Beijing







Conservation and Display of 16th-19th-Century Icons in the Studion Icon Collection. U.S. Embassy Kyiv





# Our Mission

## About the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) provides grants in support of the preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects and collections, and forms of traditional cultural expression such as music and dance in more than 100 countries around the world. Established by Congress in 2001 (Public Law 106-553) and administered by the Cultural Heritage Center within the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation is the only program of its kind in the U.S. government. In establishing the fund, Congress noted that *“Cultural preservation offers an opportunity to show a different American face to other countries, one that is non-commercial, non-political, and non-military. By taking a leading role in efforts to preserve cultural heritage, we show our respect for other cultures by protecting their traditions.”*

## About the Cultural Heritage Center

The Cultural Heritage Center supports the foreign affairs functions of the U.S. Department of State that relate to the preservation of cultural heritage. In addition to the Ambassadors Fund, the Center administers U.S. responsibilities relating to the 1970 UNESCO convention to reduce pillage and illicit trafficking in cultural property.





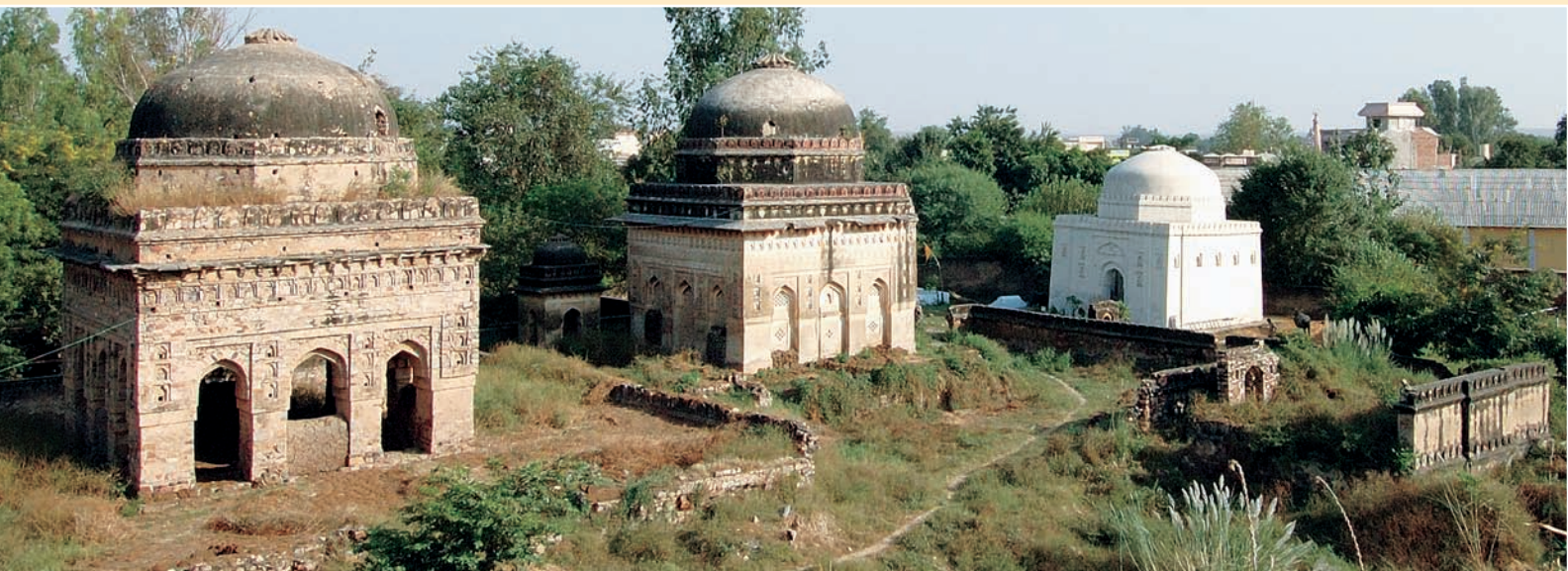
Conservation of the 10th-Century Temple of Phnom Bakheng. Cultural Heritage Center

## 2008 by the Numbers

Largest award in the new large grants program: \$978,705 for the conservation of the 10th-century Phnom Bakheng temple at Angkor Archaeological Park in Cambodia.

Largest award in the annual competition: \$93,914 for the documentation of Indo-Islamic built heritage in the Haryana and Punjab Regions of India.

Documentation of Indo-Islamic Built Heritage in the Haryana and Punjab Regions. U.S. Embassy New Delhi



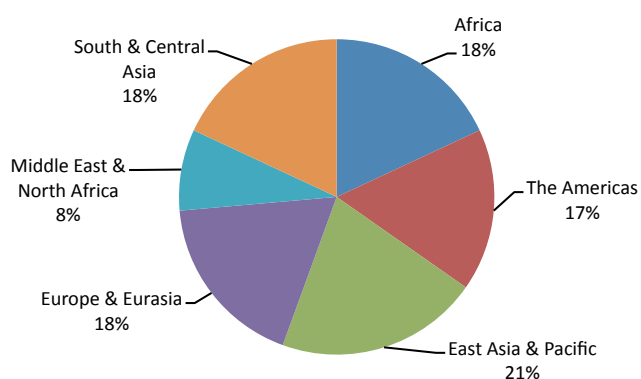


## Grants Awarded in 2008

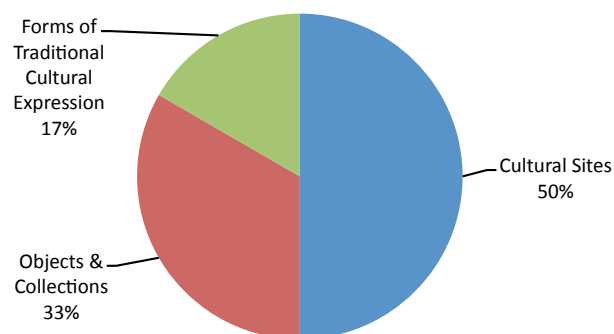
REGION	NO. OF PROJECTS	FUND AMOUNT
Africa	13	\$488,595
The Americas	12	\$957,467
East Asia & the Pacific*	15	\$1,419,964
Europe & Eurasia	13	\$429,119
Middle East & North Africa	6	\$207,677
South & Central Asia	13	\$1,228,609
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>\$4,731,431</b>

*\*Includes one grant awarded in 2008 but not implemented.*

### Regional Distribution of Projects • 2008



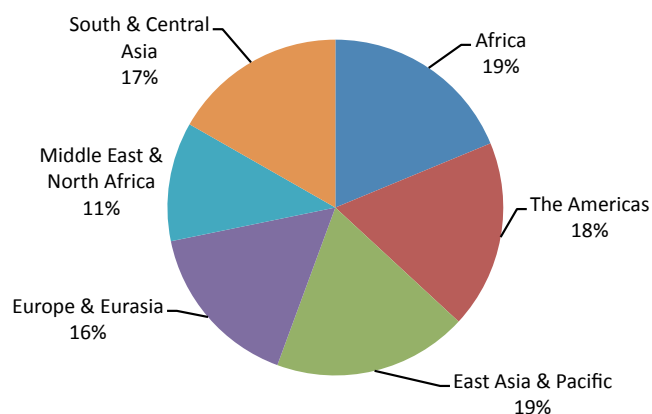
### Types of Projects • 2008



### Response to Calls for Proposals • 2008

REGION	NUMBER OF PROPOSALS	TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED
Africa	40	\$2,540,291
The Americas	35	\$1,746,497
East Asia & the Pacific	39	\$2,186,227
Europe & Eurasia	34	\$2,032,646
Middle East & North Africa	13	\$487,065
South & Central Asia	29	\$2,340,907
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>\$11,333,633</b>

### Cumulative Distribution of Funds • 2001–08







From left to right, top to bottom: AFCP-supported projects in India, Ukraine, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Turkey, Jamaica, Sudan, Vietnam, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, and Georgia.



## 2008 in Review

IN 2008, U.S. AMBASSADORS IN 94 ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES SUBMITTED 190 PROJECT PROPOSALS TOTALING MORE THAN \$11 MILLION. FOLLOWING A THOROUGH SCREENING, REVIEW, AND SELECTION PROCESS THE U.S. AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION AWARDED 72 GRANTS TOTALING \$4.73 MILLION FOR PROJECTS IN 60 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE.

The 134 countries eligible for support in 2008: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Congo (Republic of), Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa (Western), Sao Tome & Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The Cultural Heritage Center used the United Nations Human Development Index for 2007 as a guide for determining eligible countries. Since 2001, the fund has supported 508 projects worldwide totaling \$16 million.

### Program Implementation

On December 7, 2007, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs issued a request for proposals for projects to preserve cultural heritage in the following three categories—

- **Cultural sites** • **Cultural objects and collections of objects from a site, a museum, or similar institution** • **Forms of traditional cultural expression**

The proposals had to indicate the importance of the site, object, collection, or form of expression; address the need and urgency of the proposed project; and describe the impact of the U.S. contribution to the project and how that contribution would advance U.S. diplomatic goals. They also had to include detailed project budgets and information on cost participation (including in-kind contributions) from foreign governments, international organizations, and the private sector, as well as adhere to other criteria and guidelines.

The Bureau announced 69 of the cultural preservation grants on June 13, 2008.

On March 7, 2008, the Bureau invited the U.S. Embassies in Phnom Penh, Guatemala City, and five other embassies to submit proposals for support through the Ambassadors Fund for large-scale partnership-based cultural preservation projects of at least \$500,000. On May 30, July 30, and September 4, 2008, the Bureau awarded its first grants for large-scale cultural preservation projects in Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Guatemala, respectively. All three grants supported the preservation of ancient sites.





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## Cultural Sites

Cultural sites are versatile legacies. As remnants of times long gone, these places are highly valuable in the present, whether as remembrances of civilizations, as tourist sites, or restored for modern use. These sites retain the values and creativity of the past, and preserving them opens a dialogue with the present about ideals, skills, community, and stewardship.

Cultural sites vary widely in time, character, and space. They include expansive archaeological sites, sacred spaces, and ancient monuments, as well as historic buildings of all sizes, purposes, and eras. Projects in this category may address the physical security or emergency stabilization of a site, the full or partial restoration of a building, or the documentation of structures for preservation or management planning.

The Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supported 36 projects at cultural sites in 2008. Among them is the preservation of the 4th-century BC Thracian Tomb of Kran II in the Valley of the Thracian Kings in Bulgaria,





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and the restoration of a 19th-century hacienda in Ecuador. The Ambassadors Fund also supported the restoration of three Buddhist cultural monuments in the remote Upper Mustang region of Nepal.

These Buddhist monuments, or *chhortens*, belong to the ethnic Loba minority of agrarian Nepal, an area beginning to experience development and influence from the outside world. Made of earth, stone, and wood, the fragile chhortens are already subject to great environmental stress. They are at further risk if their traditional cultural significance diminishes in the wake of modern pressures. The project will engage local residents in the restoration for the purpose of instructing young people in traditional construction techniques, materials, and maintenance for chhortens.

Archaeological Sites **33%**

Historic Buildings & Sites **67%**





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## Cultural Objects & Collections

Cultural objects demonstrate the artistic, scientific, and spiritual genius of humanity. When it survives the passage of time, this movable, tangible cultural heritage holds great value, not only for descendants of those cultures, but also for scholars and the world community.

The Cultural Objects & Collections category covers a wide variety of objects, including paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, textiles, and ethnographic objects. Projects in this category typically address an urgent need for conservation treatment, the inventory of a collection for conservation purposes, the creation of safe environments for the storage or display of collections, or technical training in the care and preservation of cultural objects and collections.

In 2008, the Ambassadors Fund supported 24 projects to preserve cultural objects and collections. These projects include the conservation of 40 icons from the 16th through the 19th centuries at the Kazymyr Cathedral Museum of Sacred Art in Lviv, Ukraine, and the preservation of the collections of the National Museum of the Republic of Congo, providing much-needed equipment for the protection of Congolese cultural heritage. The Fund also supported the inventory and registration of the art objects of 20 churches in the historic center of Arequipa, Peru's second-largest city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

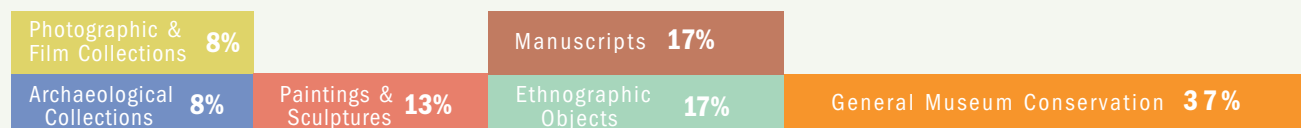




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The churches of Arequipa hold a significant portion of the city’s colonial-era cultural heritage, including paintings, sculptures, murals, textiles, decorative arts, liturgical items, gold and silver, photographs and more. Increasingly these churches and their objects are targets for theft.

The project in Arequipa is the starting point of a larger effort to identify the number of cultural patrimony objects in these 20 churches. The project involves the photographic documentation of each item, analysis of its material content, and a conservation needs assessment. The resulting inventory will assist the Archdiocese of Arequipa and the Institute of National Culture of Peru in their efforts to protect these objects and recover them in the event of theft.







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## Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression

**F**orms of traditional cultural expression are particularly at risk when buffeted by time and change. Dependent as they are on human practitioners, expressive forms of culture such as dance, music, poetry, language, and crafts can easily disappear with the passing of a generation or the disruption of a community. Documenting a culture's expressions can breathe new life into them, and can help younger generations reclaim traditions on the brink of extinction.

In 2008, the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supported 12 projects in the Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression category. Among them is the documentation of the narrative traditions of five indigenous Amazonian languages in Brazil. In Beirut, the Ambassadors Fund supported the documentation of the last remain-





Documentation of the Oral Traditions of Ifugao. U.S. Embassy Manila

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ing fragments of wedding songs and rituals that exist in the memories of an aging community. And in the Philippines, the Ambassadors Fund helped with the preservation of the oral heritage of chanters in Ifugao Province.

The *Hudhud* epics and the *Alim* chant are rituals indigenous to the Ifugao, builders of the famed Banaue Rice Terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The chants exist only orally, and the practitioners are elderly. Left undocumented, these ancient chants are at risk of being lost forever. Documentation arising from this project will be available to scholars, performers, and school children, ensuring that the epics and chants will never be forgotten.







Restoration of the 14th-Century Mosque of Old Dongola. U.S. Embassy Khartoum





“THE U.S. IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION OF THIS HISTORIC MOSQUE,  
WHICH REPRESENTS THE EARLIEST INFLUENCES OF ISLAM IN TANZANIA. LIKE  
TANZANIA, THE U.S. HAS WHAT PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA CALLED IN HIS  
INAUGURATION ADDRESS A ‘PATCHWORK HERITAGE’ OF MANY FAITH RELIGIONS.  
WE KNOW THIS HERITAGE IS A STRENGTH, NOT A WEAKNESS, AND ADDS  
TO THE CULTURAL FABRIC OF THE SOCIETY.”

KAREN GRISSETTE, CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, U.S. EMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

# Africa

## Burundi

Preservation and Display of the Collection of the National Museum in Gitega

**\$25,000** To support the preservation of the museum’s collection of traditional tools, clothes, instruments, weapons, and other artifacts of the indigenous Twa, Hutu, and Tutsi people. The goal of the project is to expand the museum’s capacity to display and protect the culturally valuable objects of Burundian life in its possession.

## Cape Verde

Conservation and Display of the Collection of the Archaeological Museum of Praia

**\$37,500** To support the continuation of work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to create an appropriate museum environment and to train staff in the management and care of collections. The museum preserves artifacts salvaged from the wrecks of ships involved in the transatlantic slave trade from the 15th to the 19th century.

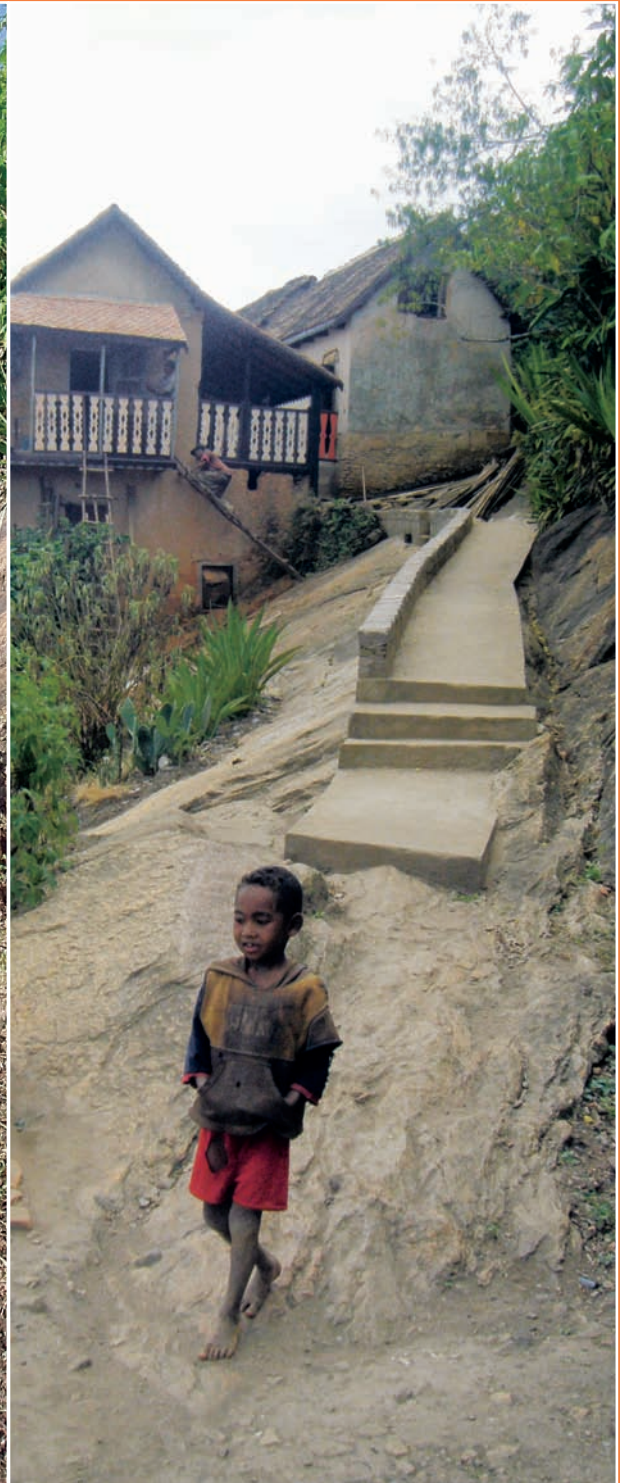
## Congo

*(Republic of)*

Preservation of the Collections of the National Museum of the Republic of Congo

**\$44,166** To support the preservation of the collections of the national museum, which continues to recover from the debilitating effects of two civil wars. The national museum is steward of a collection of more than 2,200 masks, musical instruments, statues, pottery, and arts and crafts. The project includes the purchase of equipment needed to preserve and protect Congolese cultural heritage.





Restoration of Historic Pathways in the Old City of Fianarantsoa. U.S. Embassy Antananarivo





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## Gabon

Preventive Conservation of the Collections in the National Museum of Art and Traditions

**\$35,780** To support the conservation of fragile paper and wood artifacts in the museum's collections, improvements to the conservation environment, and training for the museum staff in the care of objects. This project follows the recent renovation of the museum's infrastructure and the completion of a conservation assessment.

## Guinea

Preservation of the 19th-Century Museum Building of Boke and Its Collections

**\$22,651** To support the restoration of the museum building and the conservation of its collection of ethnographic objects and manuscripts. Housed in the area's oldest building, a former fort built in 1865, the museum collection is vulnerable to damage caused by exposure to sunlight, dust, and insects. The project involves the restoration of the building and the outfitting of proper display and storage areas for artifacts and manuscripts.

## Kenya

Preservation of Cultural Patrimony in Lamu

**\$47,241** To support the preservation of a historic building and manuscripts in the town of Lamu on Kenya's northern coast. The project involves the rehabilitation of the 19th-century Lamu Museum building and the preservation of handwritten Swahili manuscripts and a 200-year old map in the Lamu Fort Library.





Left: Preventive Conservation of the Collections in the National Museum of Art and Traditions. U.S. Embassy Libreville  
 Above: Restoration of the “Crèche,” an 18th-Century Landmark on Mozambique Island. U.S. Embassy Maputo

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## Madagascar

Restoration of Historic Pathways in the Old City of Fianarantsoa

**\$22,953** To support the restoration of deteriorated historic pedestrian pathways in this 19th-century hillside city, identified by the World Monuments Watch as one of the world’s most endangered historic sites. The walkways are seriously eroded, poorly drained, and missing pavers in some areas. The project focuses on the most damaged paths and involves local craftsmen skilled in traditional masonry and stonework.

## Mali

Preservation and Protection of Cultural Patrimony in Djenne and Bandiagara

**\$57,789** To support efforts to raise public awareness and appreciation of Malian cultural heritage and its potential as a catalyst for economic development. Looting and artifact trafficking pose significant challenges in Mali, which this project addresses through training sessions, public information campaigns, and school kits.

## Mozambique

Restoration of the “Crèche,” an 18th-Century Landmark on Mozambique Island

**\$90,000** To support the restoration of an important 18th-century building on the island of Mozambique, a World Heritage Site. The building is one of a small number of prominent buildings from this important period in the island’s history. The goal of this project is to restore and prepare the building for use by a government-supported community development foundation.









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## Sudan

### Restoration of the 14th-Century Mosque of Old Dongola

**\$33,455** To support the restoration of a 14th-century mosque in northern Sudan. Begun in the 9th century as a church, the building served as a mosque until 1969, when it fell into disrepair. The project includes test excavations and the partial restoration of the interior.

## Tanzania

### Restoration of the 18th-Century Kizimkazi Mosque

**\$21,500** To support the restoration of the Kizimkazi Mosque on the island of Zanzibar, one of the oldest Islamic buildings on the East African coast. Rebuilt in the 18th century, the mosque retains elements that date to its establishment in the 12th century and is renowned for its distinctive design and inscriptions.





Preservation of Cultural Patrimony in Arequipa.  
U.S. Embassy Lima



“THIS GRANT FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT—AND THE GREAT WORK OF A NUMBER OF DILIGENT SPECIALISTS—WILL ENSURE THAT SALVADORANS AND VISITORS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THESE AND MANY OTHER KEY PIECES OF MARTE’S (MUSEO DE ARTE DE EL SALVADOR) COLLECTION.”

CHARLES L. GLAZER, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR

# The Americas

## Bolivia

### Preservation of Ancient Rock Art Sites at Betanzos

**\$20,300** To support the preservation of two exceptional rock art sites featuring polychrome designs and a sequence of different traditions spanning thousands of years. Vandalism is on the rise at these sites, which require protective measures to discourage or prevent it. This project includes an educational campaign and training for guides and site stewards.

## Brazil

### Documentation of Amazonian Oral Traditions

**\$50,344** To support the documentation of five endangered indigenous Amazonian languages from three distinct families and cultures and the collection of stories, legends, personal histories, and descriptions of modern life. The five languages are representative of the languages and cultures of the Amazon River basin and its watershed areas. The project includes CDs and DVDs documenting each ethnic group.

## Dominican Republic

### Restoration of the Altar of the Holy Relic in the 16th-Century Cathedral of Santo Domingo

**\$39,514** To support the restoration of an important wooden side altar in the 16th-century cathedral of Santo Domingo, a colonial city and World Heritage Site. Wooden altars in this region of the world are highly susceptible to insect infestation and decay. The project includes the controlled fumigation of the altar using nitrogen gas, structural consolidation, gilding, and restoration of the altar polychromy.





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## Ecuador

Restoration of “La Tropical,” a 19th-Century Hacienda House in Salango

**\$78,937** To support the restoration of “La Tropical,” a hacienda house built in 1898. The house has long been a focal point of the Salango community and a symbol of pride and cultural identity. The project involves the documentation and restoration of the house and the conservation of archaeological artifacts.

## El Salvador

Conservation of the Collection of the Museum of Art of El Salvador

**\$20,184** To support improvements to the conservation environment of 225 works of 19th- and 20th-century Salvadoran art by providing equipment and supplies for their proper storage, handling, and documentation. Ultimately, this project benefits not only this particular collection but also other artwork and objects at the museum.

## Guatemala

Conservation of Late Preclassic Murals at San Bartolo and the Temple of the Hieroglyphic Staircase at Yaxha-Nakum-Naranjo National Park, Ancient Maya Sites in the Eastern Petén

**\$575,251** To support the conservation of Late Preclassic period (c. 300 BC–200 AD) Maya murals at San Bartolo, as well as the conservation of the Classic period (c. 250 AD–900 AD) Maya Temple of the Hieroglyphic Staircase and the documentation of plundering at Yaxha-Nakum-Naranjo National Park, sites of great importance in understanding the ancient Maya civilization in the eastern Petén. The murals are in urgent need of stabilization, and the temple and national park are currently attractive targets for looters.





Conservation of Late Preclassic Murals at San Bartolo and the Temple of the Hieroglyphic Staircase at Yaxha-Nakum-Naranjo National Park.  
U.S. Embassy Guatemala City

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Restoration of the Altar of the Holy Relic in the 16th-Century Cathedral of Santo Domingo. U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo



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## Honduras

Preservation of Colonial Period Cultural Patrimony in Comayagua and Santa Rosa de Copan

**\$31,288** To support the documentation of traditions, uses, and customs associated with Colonial period ecclesiastical cultural property and related institutions, and to work with local communities to revive and sustain these practices in churches that are vulnerable to looting. The project involves workshops on establishing measures to control and protect property and the publication of the project findings.

## Jamaica

Restoration of Five Historic Paintings in the National Gallery of Jamaica

**\$27,330** To support the conservation of five historic paintings from the 18th and 20th centuries in the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Jamaica. The paintings require immediate treatment to forestall irreversible deterioration. This project continues work begun under a previous grant in 2006.

## Nicaragua

Preservation of Nicaragua's Archaeological Patrimony

**\$41,014** To support the identification and registration of important sites and archaeological artifacts of cultural interest in the northern parts of the country which are at very high risk of damage or loss and to strengthen local capacity for cultural preservation. The project involves the direct participation of local communities.





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Conservation of the Archaeological Collection of the Contisuyo Museum in Moquegua. U.S. Embassy Lima





Preservation of Ancient Rock Art Sites at Betanzos. U.S. Embassy La Paz

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## Peru

### Conservation of the Archaeological Collections of the Sican Museum

**\$29,910** To support the conservation of a recently acquired Sican (750–1375 AD) archaeological collection. The materials from this new collection will be assessed, catalogued, conserved, and then registered in the museum’s collections management database. The project includes the purchase of dehumidifiers for the storage spaces and an online catalogue.

## Peru

### Preservation of Cultural Patrimony in Arequipa

**\$26,514** To support the registration, inventory, and cataloging of art objects of 20 colonial period (16th–19th-century) churches in Arequipa and the surrounding area. The inventory covers artwork and other objects of a historical or artistic value that are vulnerable to looting. This project supports the Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Peru and the United States on the protection of cultural patrimony.

## Peru

### Conservation of the Archaeological Collection of the Contisuyo Museum in Moquegua

**\$16,881** To support the conservation of the museum’s diverse collection of pre-Columbian textiles, early stone works, and ceremonial ceramic vases that range in age from 500 to 10,000 years. The collection has grown rapidly, and the museum urgently needs to improve the conservation environment. This project provides climate controls, new storage cases, conservation materials, and electronic scales for use in registering and monitoring acquisitions.







“THE PROJECT WILL RESEARCH THE RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS  
OF TWO ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS, THE LANTEN AND YAO. THE RESEARCH WILL  
BE USED TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF LAOS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE LAO PDR.”

RAVIC R. HUSO, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LAOS

# East Asia & Pacific

## Burma

### Preservation of Burmese Musical Traditions

**\$33,870** To support the preservation of traditional Burmese music and its historical context. The project involves extensive interviews with elderly musicians, capturing anecdotes, personal expressions, advice, and training, along with the digitization of a collection of 8,000 Burmese recordings dating back to 1910.

## Cambodia

### Conservation of the 10th-Century Temple of Phnom Bakheng

**\$978,705** To support the stabilization and conservation of the east façade of the 10th-century Phnom Bakheng Temple, the most visited temple at Angkor Archaeological Park and one of the greatest cultural achievements of the Khmer Kingdom. The harsh tropical climate and mass tourism have taken their toll on the ancient monument. The project involves emergency stabilization of structures at risk of collapse and the conservation of the most deteriorated façade.

## Cambodia

### Preservation of the Archives of the National Museum of Cambodia

**\$45,386** To support the preservation of the National Museum’s archives. Less well known than the art collection, the archives contain valuable photographs related to the museum collection and Cambodian history and art. The project involves the cataloging and physical conservation of documents, improved storage conditions for archival records, the implementation of an archival records database for managing the records, and training for museum staff.





Documentation of Lu Mien (Yao) and Kim Mun (Lanten) Taoist Rituals in Northern Laos. U.S. Embassy Vientiane



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## China

### Preservation of Tibetan Traditional Folk Cultures in Qinghai Province

**\$47,820** To support the preservation of ritual celebrations, songs, games, and other threatened folk cultural activities in Tibetan communities in Qinghai Province. The project includes the production and distribution of a nine-part series of DVDs and books, each detailing a specific activity, to increase awareness and interest in Tibetan folk culture.





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## China

Conservation and Display of Ancient Silk Objects from the Warring States Period  
in the Hubei Provincial Museum

**\$49,998** To support the conservation and display of a unique collection of silk embroideries dating from 770 to 221 BC. Current storage and display conditions do not control for humidity, light, or pollution, and the collection urgently needs protection. This project involves display area upgrades, an exhibit, and a catalogue.





Preservation of Tibetan Traditional Folk Cultures in Qinghai Province. U.S. Embassy Beijing

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## Laos

### Documentation of Iu Mien (Yao) and Kim Mun (Lanten) Taoist Rituals in Northern Laos

**\$30,126** To support the documentation of Taoist and shamanistic rituals of the Iu Mien and Kim Mun ethnic minorities of northern Laos and the promotion and preservation of this heritage for future generations. These upland peoples have been resettled by the government, and their traditional belief systems and rituals have been disrupted. The project includes photographic and audiovisual recording of their activities.

## Laos

### Training in the Preservation of Palm Leaf Manuscripts

**\$9,000** To support workshops for young monks and lay people in scientific methods of preserving palm leaf manuscripts and in reading the Tham script. Thousands of fragile manuscripts detailing the history of the Lao are deteriorating. The project involves broad participation from all over Laos and the publication of preservation guides at the conclusion of the workshops.

## Marshall Islands

### Preservation of Traditional Marshallese Navigation

**\$25,290** To support the documentation of traditional knowledge of navigation and transmission of that knowledge to the next generation. The Marshallese possess a unique and sophisticated system for navigation based on reading the effects of atolls on ocean swells and currents, but only three elderly master navigators remain. The project involves onshore training, sea trials, a sea voyage, and documentation of these activities on DVD.





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## Micronesia

Preservation of Reel-to-Reel Recordings of Chants, Dances, and Stories of Yap State

**\$21,000** To support the preservation and dissemination of cultural information contained in 20th-century reel-to-reel recordings of traditional dances, chants, and stories. This state radio tape collection is highly susceptible to deterioration and desperately needs to be cleaned, indexed, and digitized for preservation and use.

## Mongolia

Preservation of Bronze Age Khanui Valley Deer Stones

**\$38,960** To support the preservation and protection of Bronze Age (second millennium BC) stelae in the remote Khanui Valley. Damaged by grazing animals, the harsh steppe weather, and human activity, the stones and the designs carved on them are in danger of disappearing. This project includes documentation work, protective measures, and an informational campaign to educate visitors about their value as cultural heritage. It builds upon a project supported through the Ambassadors Fund in 2004.

## Papua New Guinea

Preservation of the Architectural Traditions of Papua New Guinea

**\$13,100** To support the documentation of traditional buildings and settlement patterns in Papua New Guinea. In their tropical environment, Papuan buildings built using traditional methods degrade quickly and are increasingly replaced with new buildings of modern material and design. This project includes a survey of traditional architecture in eight provinces and support for the Architectural Heritage Centre of Papua New Guinea to carry out the survey work.





Training in the Preservation of Palm Leaf Manuscripts. U.S. Embassy Vientiane

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## Philippines

### Documentation of the Oral Traditions of Ifugao

**\$19,000** To support the documentation of the Hudhud and Alim epics of the Ifugao people, two traditions passed down orally from generation to generation and recognized by UNESCO as Masterpieces of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The project, which involves the audiovisual recording of chants and their transcription and translation into three languages, builds upon a 2007 project to support the preservation of the Banaue Rice Terraces, a World Heritage Site.

## Timor-Leste

### Preservation of Timor-Leste's Uma Lulic Heritage

**\$32,000** To support the preservation of four Uma Lulic sacred houses in Timor-Leste. The Uma Lulic tradition is sacred in all parts of Timor-Leste and a powerful symbol of unity in a fractured country trying to rebuild its heritage. The preservation of these four houses follows a previous project supported by the Ambassadors Fund in 2006 to document the rituals and traditions associated with the construction of Uma Lulics.

## Vietnam

### Preservation of 17th-19th-Century Devotional Wooden Carvings at the Nam Dinh Provincial Museum

**\$30,000** To support the preservation of more than 50 carved, painted, and gilt wooden objects in the Nam Dinh Provincial Museum. The objects, which date from the 17th to the 19th century, represent a wide variety of subject matter, from flora and fauna to religious personages and themes. The preservation of these objects is a necessary prerequisite for their eventual display in the museum.





Preservation of Bronze Age Khanui Valley Deer Stones. U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar







Preservation of the 4th-Century BC Thracian Tomb of Kran II  
in the Valley of the Thracian Kings. U.S. Embassy Sofia



“[W]HEN I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MINSK, ONE OF THE FIRST TRIPS I MADE WAS TO THIS PLACE... AND I AM VERY HONORED TO BE HERE IN VITEBSK FOR THIS YEAR’S AWARD WHICH IS TO THE PEOPLE’S ART SCHOOL, FOR THE RESTORATION OF THIS IMPORTANT BUILDING.”

JONATHAN MOORE, U.S. CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES TO BELARUS

# Europe & Eurasia

## Albania

Conservation of Artifacts in the Museum of Prehistory

**\$7,804** To support the conservation of 250 prehistoric artifacts on display at the Museum of Prehistory. The collection includes ceramics and iron, silver, and other metal objects such as tools, weapons, jewelry, and religious artifacts. The project involves the cleaning and consolidation of the most threatened artifacts.

## Azerbaijan

Preventive Conservation of the Collection at the Mohammad Fuzuli Institute of Manuscripts

**\$53,109** To support improvements to manuscript storage and display conditions at the Mohammad Fuzuli Institute of Manuscripts at the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. The institute houses Azerbaijan’s primary collection of rare Eastern medieval texts, including approximately 40,000 Azeri, Turkish, Uzbek, Persian, and Arabic works on medicine, astronomy, mathematics, poetry, philosophy, law, history, and geography, and rare Korans dating back to the 15th century.

## Belarus

Restoration of the Former Vitebsk People’s School of Art, an Early 20th-Century Landmark

**\$29,880** To support the restoration of the former Vitebsk People’s School of Art building, an early 20th-century landmark of international importance, for use as a contemporary art center. Immortalized on canvas by the modern painter Marc Chagall, one of the school’s most famous denizens, the former school of art building is badly deteriorated. The project involves the restoration of the original windows and masonry repair work.





Above: Preservation of the Main Gate and Tombstones in the Jewish Cemetery in Sarajevo. U.S. Embassy Sarajevo  
 Right: Restoration of the 19th-Century Kulla of Haxhi Zeka in the Village of Leshan. U.S. Embassy Pristina

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## Bosnia & Herzegovina

### Preservation of the Main Gate and Tombstones in the Jewish Cemetery in Sarajevo

**\$30,204** To support the preservation of the main gate and ten historic tombstones in the Jewish Cemetery of Sarajevo, considered the second-largest Jewish burial ground in Europe. The cemetery, which chronicles Sarajevo's Jewish community beginning in the mid-16th century, was severely damaged during the siege of Sarajevo (1992–1995) by artillery fire, snipers, and land mines, and subsequently vandalized.

## Bulgaria

### Preservation of the 4th-Century BC Thracian Tomb of Kran II in the Valley of the Thracian Kings

**\$33,359** To support the preservation of the Thracian tomb of Kran II, which dates from the late 4th century BC and forms part of a complex of tombs in the Valley of Thracian Kings. The tomb is the earliest known of its kind in the region and is distinctive for its superb wall decorations. Its walls are cracked and menaced with mold; the tomb, which is also sinking, is in need of immediate conservation intervention.

## Georgia

### Urgent Conservation of Hellenistic and Roman Settlements and Cemeteries in Khovle

**\$18,887** To support the conservation of classical and medieval cemeteries and settlements in the central Georgian village of Khovle. The discovery of a tomb and other artifacts nearby points to the existence of other sites of great archaeological value. Looting and extensive construction in the area make the investigation and protection of these sites a priority.





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## Kosovo

Restoration of the 19th-Century Kulla of Haxhi Zeka in the Village of Leshan

**\$56,352** To support the restoration of an unusual 19th-century brick kulla, a traditional Albanian fortified tower house type in Kosovo. Customarily built in stone, the kulla flourished from the 18th to the early 20th century. One of the objectives of the project is to raise public awareness of the importance and benefits of safeguarding cultural heritage sites.

## Macedonia

Conservation of 12th-15th-Century Slavic and Greek Manuscripts in the National Institute and Museum in Ohrid

**\$28,777** To support the conservation of five endangered Slavic and old Greek manuscripts dating from the 12th to the 15th century in the National Institute and Museum. Poor storage conditions have contributed to their deterioration. Once conserved, the manuscripts are to go on display in museums across the country.

## Montenegro

Preservation of 17th-Century Frescoes in Piva Monastery

**\$22,200** To support the preservation and protection of valuable early 17th-century frescoes in Piva Monastery against water-induced deterioration. The monastery has experienced drainage and humidity problems ever since its removal from its original location in 1979 to make way for a hydroelectric dam. The project involves the installation of a new drainage system along the building perimeter.





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## Romania

Restoration and Interpretation of 17th- and 18th-Century Buildings in Rimetea

**\$33,000** To support the restoration of the interiors and exteriors of three 17th- and 18th-century buildings in the village of Rimetea and the development of a heritage trail in the historic settlement. The buildings are among the oldest in the area and among the most valuable in terms of cultural heritage. The project includes interpretation and technical training components.

## Serbia

Conservation of Medieval Wall Paintings in Studenica Monastery

**\$33,850** To support the conservation of 13th-century frescoes in the Church of the Holy Virgin in Studenica Monastery, the most important monastery of medieval Serbia and a World Heritage Site. The frescoes, which depict biblical scenes and other religious imagery, are in dire need of conservation, having suffered from widespread degradation of their base and painted layers.





Above: Preservation of 5th-Century Mosaics at the Agora-Basilica in Kelenderis. U.S. Embassy Ankara

Left: Preservation of 17th-Century Frescoes in Piva Monastery. U.S. Embassy Podgorica

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## Turkey

### Preservation of 5th-Century Mosaics at the Agora-Basilica in Kelenderis

**\$38,920** To support the preservation of mosaic floors revealed during a recent excavation of a 5th-century basilica at the Kelenderis archaeological site. The mosaics, of geometric design, depict figural scenes such as a shepherd milking a goat, a woman holding the bridle of a zebra, and a struggle between a lion and a bull. Once the mosaics are cleaned, documented, and restored, the area will be open to the public.

## Ukraine

### Conservation and Display of 16th-19th-Century Icons in the Studion Icon Collection

**\$42,777** To support the conservation and display of 40 rarely exhibited religious icons dating from the 16th to the 19th century. Collected from churches and other sites throughout the Ukraine and brought together at the former Saint Kazymyr Cathedral in Lviv, now a museum of sacred art, the icons are an important symbol of Ukrainian cultural and national identity.







“THE AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION DEMONSTRATES THE  
UNITED STATES’ RESPECT FOR OTHER CULTURES’ RICH TRADITIONS BY  
ASSISTING IN PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL SITES AND ARTIFACTS.”

MICHELE J. SISON, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON

# Middle East & North Africa

## Iraq

Preservation of the Collection of the Iraqi Heritage House of Historical Textiles and Ceramics

**\$50,000** To support the preservation of an important national handmade textile and ceramic collection that tells the story of the history of Iraq. In 2003, looting and fire destroyed the Iraqi Heritage House collection. Since then, the staff has been rebuilding the collection and now has more than 100 textiles ready for display.

## Lebanon

Preservation of Traditional Lebanese Wedding Songs

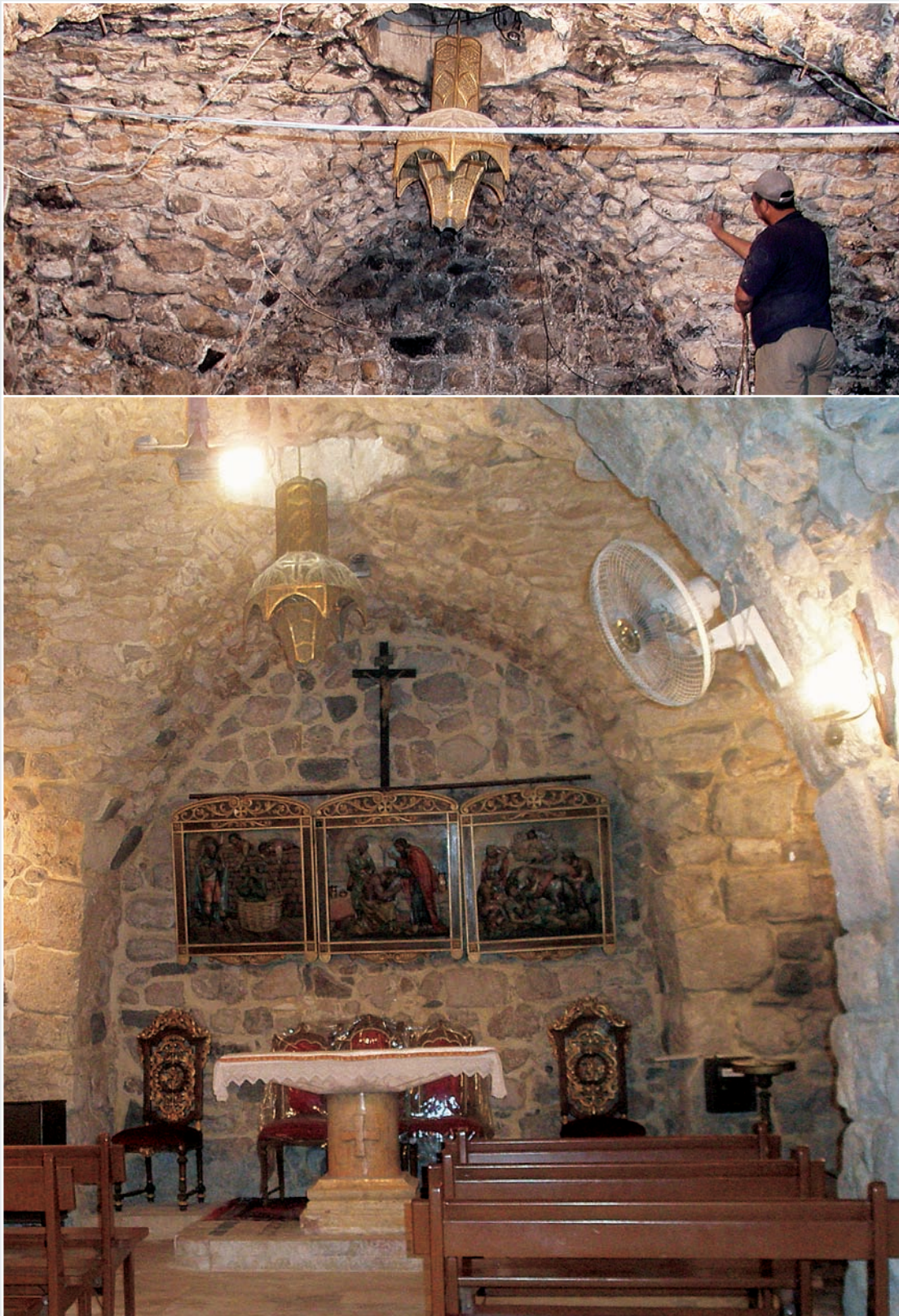
**\$36,439** To support the preservation of Lebanese wedding traditions and associated music. Transmitted across centuries in Lebanese villages, traditional wedding music is now rarely performed, and no significant recordings of it exist. The project involves the collection of field recordings, transcriptions of wedding songs, and a publication.

## Lebanon

Preservation of the Historic Photograph Collection of the Arab Image Foundation

**\$29,960** To support the preservation of the Arab Image Foundation’s extensive family photograph collections, some of which date to the late 19th century. Temporarily housed in envelopes layered in boxes, these collections require proper treatment and storage for their long-term preservation. The project involves the improvement of collection storage conditions and digitization for access.





Restoration of the Ancient Chapel of St. Hanania in the Old City of Damascus. U.S. Embassy Damascus





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## Morocco

### Preservation of the 11th-Century Hammam in Aghmat

**\$28,200** To support the preservation of the archaeological remains of the hammam in Aghmat, a unique 11th-century pre-Almoravid hammam. Abandoned in the late 14th century and taken over by a large-scale pottery industry, the hammam lay mostly buried when archaeologists began working on the building in 2005. The project involves the preservation of the walls, basins, and hypocaust, interpretive signage, and site security improvements.

## Syria

### Conservation and Display of Artifacts from Tell Qarqur in the Hama Museum

**\$34,500** To support the conservation and display of artifacts from Tell Qarqur, an important Iron Age archaeological site in northwestern Syria. A joint Syrian-American research project has uncovered considerable material at Tell Qarqur. The project aims to preserve the finds and raise public awareness of the area's patrimony and the importance of preserving it.

## Syria

### Restoration of the Ancient Chapel of St. Hanania in the Old City of Damascus

**\$28,578** To support the restoration of the ancient Chapel of St. Hanania (Ananias), considered to be the home of the first Christian Bishop of Damascus. An important pilgrimage site in the Old City, a World Heritage Site, the subterranean chapel is subject to damage and deterioration due to development pressures and other factors. The project involves the restoration of the masonry walls and archways, new electrical wiring, and the removal of non-historic elements.



Conservation of Qala  
Ikhtyaruddin, the 15th-Century  
Citadel of Herat.  
Aga Khan Trust for Culture





“I HAVE BECOME A HUGE BELIEVER IN THIS PROGRAM.... THE RIGHT THING TO DO BY GLOBAL HERITAGE STANDARDS; BRINGING BACK TO LIFE THE LEGACIES OF LOST KINGDOMS AND GREAT CULTURES; INSTILLING PRIDE IN THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AND BELIEF IN THEIR NATION; SETTING THE STAGE FOR A FUTURE TOURIST INDUSTRY; AND SHOWING THE VERY BEST OF AMERICA ALL THE WHILE.”

KARL W. EIKENBERRY, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN

# South & Central Asia

## Afghanistan

Conservation of Qala Ikhtyaruddin, the 15th-Century Citadel of Herat

**\$725,000** To support the conservation of the 15th-century citadel, Qala Ikhtyaruddin, in Herat, a prominent public landmark of this ancient city and one of the most impressive surviving citadels in all of Central Asia. More than 20 years of war and neglect have taken their toll on this venerable structure. The project involves the restoration of masonry walls and archways, as well as the installation of a suitable drainage system in the lower courtyard.

## Afghanistan

Restoration of the 19th-Century Goldasta Mosque in Kabul

**\$82,700** To support the restoration of a late 19th-century mosque in Kabul's old city. Heavily damaged in 1993, the mosque is one of several interrelated restoration projects in the area to train a new generation of craftsmen. The project includes a number of internships for students of architecture and support for an audio-visual documentary on the restoration of the mosque.

## India

Documentation of Indo-Islamic Built Heritage in the Haryana and Punjab Regions

**\$93,914** To support the documentation of important Indo-Islamic monuments from the 12th to the 19th century built along the Grand Trunk Road in the States of Punjab and Haryana. Several of these structures were built by the Emperor Babur, Empress Nur Jahan, and other great Mughal period leaders. The documentation, including measured architectural drawings, showcases the shared heritage of the Indian and Islamic cultures.





Documentation of Indo-Islamic Built Heritage in  
the Haryana and Punjab Regions.  
Center for South Asian Art and Archaeology

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## Kazakhstan

### Preservation of Improvisational Kazakh Musical Heritage

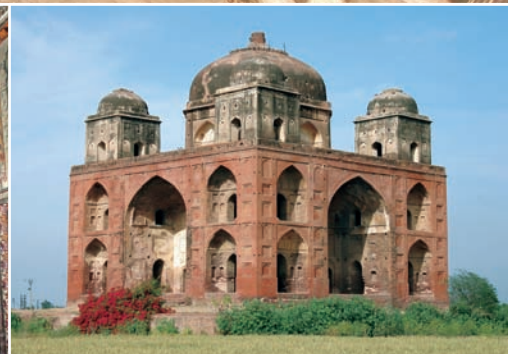
**\$28,790** To support the preservation of an indigenous oral musical tradition and the restoration of an extensive collection of 9,000 hours of audio recordings. Dating from the early 20th century, the magnetic tape and vinyl recordings are susceptible to physical deterioration and sound degradation.

## Kyrgyzstan

### Conservation of Rare Books in the National Library

**\$29,653** To support the conservation of rare and valuable books about Kyrgyzstan held in various regional and state libraries. The project involves the identification and conservation of fragile books and the development of an electronic collection to facilitate public access and reduce wear and tear on the originals.





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## Maldives

### Conservation of the Kaashidhoo Archaeological Site

**\$28,950** To support the conservation of the Kaashidhoo archaeological site, a visible remnant of the pre-Islamic past of the Maldives. Excavated in the 1990s and believed to be a Buddhist monastery from the 7th century, the site is deteriorating rapidly. The project involves the conservation and interpretation of the site.

## Nepal

### Restoration of Ancient Buddhist Chhortens in Mustang

**\$22,746** To support the restoration of three historic chhortens—Buddhist monuments that guard natural thresholds or commemorate significant events and that are among the most distinctive features in the landscape of Upper Mustang. Notable for their painted slate panels, sizes, and prominent locations, the three chhortens are deteriorated and at risk of collapse.





Preservation of Jinan Wali Dheri Monastery at Taxila. U.S. Embassy Islamabad

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## Pakistan

Preservation of the 13th-Century Shrine of Hazrat Sakhi Sarwar at Dera Ghazi Khan

**\$49,996** To support the preservation of the 13th-century shrine of Hazrat Sakhi Sarwar in Dera Ghazi Khan in Southern Punjab Province. Hundreds of thousands of religious pilgrims visit the shrine each year. The project involves the restoration of the frescoes and wooden elements of the building.

## Pakistan

Preservation of Jinan Wali Dheri Monastery at Taxila

**\$41,000** To support the continuation of work begun under a previous grant to preserve the site of a 5th-century Buddhist monastery. The project involves the conservation and protection of recently uncovered structures and improvements to access.





Preservation of the 9th-Century Shir-Kebir (Mashad-Ata) Mosque.  
U.S. Embassy Ashgabat



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## Sri Lanka

### Preservation of the Documentary Film Heritage of Sri Lanka

**\$18,580** To support the preservation of 20th-century documentary films on the culture of Sri Lanka from independence in 1948 through the 1980s. Nearly half of the films are deteriorated or damaged beyond repair because of poor storage conditions, theft, and indifference. The project involves the preservation of the remaining films and conversion of 100 of them to DVD format for research and release at film festivals and on TV.

## Turkmenistan

### Preservation of the 9th-Century Shir-Kebir (Mashad-Ata) Mosque

**\$33,100** To support the preservation of the Mashad-Ata Mosque, the oldest extant mosque building in Turkmenistan and a unique example of pre-Mongol Islamic architecture of the 9th and 10th centuries. The mosque's central dome is near collapse, endangering the entire structure. The project includes an archaeological survey and a conservation training component for students.





Conservation of the Collection of the Tamara Khanum Museum. U.S. Embassy Tashkent

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## Turkmenistan

### Preservation of the Ismamyat-Ata Monument

**\$42,500** To support the preservation of the 10th-century Ismamyat-Ata Monument, the remnants of a medieval town and an important sacred site for Turkmen, Uzbeks, and Kazakhs. The project involves archaeological, architectural, and engineering surveys of the site and repairs to the mausoleum and main corridor.

## Uzbekistan

### Conservation of the Collection of the Tamara Khanum Museum

**\$31,680** To support the conservation of costumes, jewelry, photos, theater posters, letters, and audiovisual recordings documenting the life and work of Tamara Khanum. A dancer and singer renowned for removing her veil in public in the early 20th century, Khanum made Uzbek dance a professional theatrical art. Many of the objects in the collection have not been on display because of their fragile condition.





Preservation of the Ismailiyat Monastery. U.S. Embassy Ashgabat







Cover and inside front cover: Conservation of Qala Ikhtyaruddin, the 15th-Century Citadel of Herat. Aga Khan Trust for Culture



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